

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2007

Question: F74

Outcome 2, Output 2.1.1

Topic: AEC awareness of incorrect ballot paper sorting in Banks and what action taken

Hansard page: N/A

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In the Division of Banks many ballot papers had been incorrectly sorted at the polling booth on election night, including obviously informal votes being included in the polling booth counts. Is the AEC aware of this? If so, what actions were taken in relation to this. Is the AEC aware of such practices being observed at polling booths in subsequent Council elections and at the recent NSW State election?

Answer:

The AEC is not aware of this issue arising in the Division of Banks at the 2004 federal election. However, it should be noted that a fresh scrutiny of all ballot papers from polling places is conducted by the AEC in the week after polling day and scrutineers are entitled to be present during the fresh scrutiny.